

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A stage apparatus ~~provided with a holder having a substrate holding surface which holds a substrate, and a stage which supports and moves the holder,~~ comprising:

a holder having a substrate holding surface on which a substrate is held, there being a gap along an outer circumferential part of the substrate held on the holder;

a lyophilic portion that is disposed in a vicinity of the holder and that is disposed below a surface of the substrate held by the holder in the vicinity of the holder; and

a recovery device that recovers a liquid leaked from the gap, which is disposed in the vicinity of the holder, that has a lyophilic portion, of which at least a part is lyophilic, and that recovers a liquid using the lyophilic portion.

2. (Currently Amended) A stage apparatus according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ recovery device has a suction device that suctions the liquid guided to ~~said the~~ lyophilic portion.

3. (Currently Amended) A stage apparatus according to ~~Claim~~ claim 2, wherein ~~said substrate is suctioned to said holder, and~~ suction force of ~~said the~~ suction device by which the liquid is recovered is greater than suction force ~~that suctions said substrate by which the substrate is held on the holder.~~

4. (Currently Amended) A stage apparatus according to ~~Claim~~ claim 2, wherein ~~said the~~ suction device includes a passage disposed below ~~said the~~ lyophilic portion, and

~~said the~~ lyophilic portion has an inclined portion, which is inclined toward ~~said the~~ passage of the suction device.

5. (Currently Amended) A stage apparatus according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein ~~said recovery device~~ the lyophilic portion has a first portion that is higher than ~~said the~~ substrate holding surface.

6. (Currently Amended) A stage apparatus according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ recovery device has a recessed portion that suctions the liquid by the capillary phenomenon.

7. (Currently Amended) A stage apparatus according to ~~Claim~~ claim 6, wherein at least a part of ~~said the~~ recessed portion is lyophilic.

8. (Currently Amended) A stage apparatus according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ recovery device has a surface that is substantially parallel to ~~said the~~ substrate holding surface, and ~~a liquid repellent portion at least a part of which at least a part is liquid repellent~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A stage apparatus according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein at least a part of ~~said the~~ holder is liquid repellent.

10. (Currently Amended) A stage apparatus according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ substrate holding surface is liquid repellent.

11. (Currently Amended) A stage apparatus according to ~~Claim~~claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ lyophilic portion is disposed so that a space is formed between ~~an the~~ outer circumferential part of ~~said the~~ substrate and ~~said the~~ lyophilic portion.

12. (Currently Amended) A stage apparatus according to ~~Claim~~claim 1, wherein a portion of ~~said the~~ holder that opposes ~~said the~~ lyophilic portion is liquid repellent.

13. (Currently Amended) An exposure apparatus, comprising:

a stage apparatus according to ~~Claim 1~~claim 1,

wherein a substrate held on a holder of the stage apparatus is exposed.

14. (Currently Amended) An exposure method comprising: ~~that exposes a pattern onto a substrate held by a holder, comprising the steps of:~~

holding a substrate on a holder, there being disposing a lyophilic portion, at least a part of which is lyophilic, disposed below a surface of the substrate held by the holder in the vicinity of the holder;

supplying liquid to the substrate; and

exposing the ~~pattern~~ substrate held by the holder through the liquid.

15. (Currently Amended) An exposure method according to ~~Claim~~claim 14, further ~~comprising the step of:~~comprising:

recovering part of the liquid using ~~said the~~ lyophilic portion.

16. (Currently Amended) An exposure method according to ~~Claim~~claim 14, wherein a part of ~~said the~~ holder is liquid repellent.

17. (New) A stage apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the lyophilic portion has an inclined surface which is downwardly inclined in a direction away from the substrate held on the holder.

18. (New) A stage apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:  
a flat surface which is provided around the holder, and which is substantially flush with the surface of the substrate held on the holder,  
wherein the recovery device recovers, using the lyophilic portion, the liquid which has leaked from a gap between the flat surface and the surface of the substrate held on the holder.

19. (New) An exposure apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:  
a liquid supply system which has a supply port, the liquid supply system supplying a liquid onto the substrate to form a liquid immersion area on a portion of a surface of the substrate during the exposure,  
wherein the substrate is exposed through the liquid with exposure light.

20. (New) A device manufacturing method comprising:  
exposing, through a liquid, a substrate held on a holder of a stage apparatus according to claim 1; and  
processing the exposed substrate.